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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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## **Reports**

[Item#1](#)

THE ADULT RECESSION. Center for Economic and Policy Research. David Rosnick. July 2010.

Since the Great Depression, the worst episode of unemployment came in the second half of 1982 and the first half of 1983. Over that time, the unemployment rate stayed above ten percent from September through June, reaching 10.8 percent of the labor force in November and December of 1982. A naïve examination of the raw unemployment rates would suggest that the downturn of the early 1980s resulted in a labor market even weaker than what we have experienced as a result of the collapse of the housing bubble. However, the demographics of the labor force have changed significantly over the last quarter century. After adjusting for the aging of the population since the early 1980s, the current labor-market downturn has resulted in both a higher unemployment rate and a longer period when the rate of unemployment remained over 10 percent.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/9pRPmf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

#### Item#2

ARE PALESTINIANS BUILDING A STATE? Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Nathan J. Brown. July 1, 2010.

The international community's understandable admiration for Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and his efforts to rebuild the West Bank obscures a dangerous regression in democracy and human rights. Just back from the West Bank, Nathan J. Brown contends that the United States is once again confusing support for an admirable individual with that of a sound policy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/dj9GOd> [PDF format, 16 pages].

#### Item#3

BEIJING: A GLOBAL LEADER WITH 'CHINA FIRST' POLICY. YaleGlobal. David Shambaugh. June 29, 2010.

Observers have long hoped for new openness and cooperation from a confident China. They scan every international event, from the majestic Beijing Olympics of summer 2008 to the recent G-20 summit in Toronto, for indications of China's policy direction. If any clear trend is visible, it is that the world's second largest economy largely continues with a narrow, fluctuating foreign-policy approach. "On global issues, Beijing appears to act with an odd combination of hesitancy and truculence," explains David Shambaugh.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/creMpy> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#4

FROM SOLICITOR GENERAL TO SUPREME COURT NOMINEE: RESPONSIBILITIES, HISTORY, AND THE NOMINATION OF ELENA KAGAN. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. June 23, 2010.

On May 10, 2010, President Obama nominated Solicitor General Elena Kagan to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens. If confirmed, Elena Kagan would be the first serving Solicitor General to be appointed to the Court since the elevation of Thurgood Marshall in 1967. She would also be only the fifth of 111 Justices to come to the bench with such experience.

Full Text:

<http://go.usa.gov/OCB> [PDF format, 20 pages].

#### Item#5

GROWING CHALLENGES OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT – PART I. YaleGlobal. Susan Froetschel. June 22, 2010.

The study analyzes what the Gulf oil spill reveals about the intricate global connections and entrenched interests of the energy industry. Good governance and regulations protect the environment, livelihoods and investor interests both near and far. Political leaders can use the entangled nature of such oil operations to evade responsibility or they can use the same complexity to plan for the long term, harnessing global efforts to devise sustainable energy policies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/acdkIE> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#6

GROWING CHALLENGES OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT – PART II. YaleGlobal. Olivier Cattaneo. June 24, 2010.

The study describes U.S. and European proposals to impose tariffs on nations that lag in limiting carbon emissions. The plans discuss job protection, conveniently overlooking the fact that emerging economies have substantially fewer emissions to limit, writes the author. Poor nations face challenges in calculating carbon footprints, while wealthy nations have the resources to find loopholes, evading responsibility for historically high levels of emissions. The plans could create incentives to focus on reporting rather than reducing carbon. In the end, elaborate tariff schemes may do more to serve protectionist interests than reduce energy consumption.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/aGjSni> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#7

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE: STATUS OF NORTH KOREAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES. U.S. Government Accountability Office. June 2010.

Famine killed hundreds of thousands of North Koreans in the 1990s and compelled a large number of others to leave in search of food, economic opportunities, and escape from a repressive regime. This migration continues. Some North Koreans seek resettlement in other countries, such as South Korea and the United States. To promote a more durable humanitarian solution to the plight of North Korean

refugees, Congress passed the North Korean Human Rights Act in 2004. In reauthorizing the Act in 2008, Congress found that delays in processing North Korean refugees have led refugees to abandon their quest for U.S. resettlement.

Full Text:

<http://go.usa.gov/O3w> [PDF format, 61 pages].

#### Item#8

LEGAL ANALYSIS OF SOLICITOR GENERAL ELENA KAGAN'S RECORD ON ABORTION RIGHTS. Center for Reproductive Rights. June 21, 2010.

As the Supreme Court nomination hearings are scheduled to begin on Monday, June 28, the Center released legal analysis of Solicitor General Elena Kagan's record on abortion rights. The analysis is based on a thorough review of publicly available documents, including her memoranda while serving as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, her notes and memoranda while serving in the White House, her academic writings, and her statements upon nomination for the position of Solicitor General. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/a3dv3q> [PDF format, 15 pages].

#### Item#9

THE ONLINE LEARNING IMPERATIVE: A SOLUTION TO THREE LOOMING CRISES IN EDUCATION. Alliance for Excellent Education. Bob Wise and Robert Rothman. June 2010.

Currently, K–12 education in the U.S. is dealing with three major crises, each of which on its own is capable of wreaking havoc on schools and communities around the nation, but together are an all-out perfect storm. Simultaneously, the U.S. education system is facing a growing workforce whose mounting needs for education and training will not be met by the nation's current public education system; declining state fiscal revenues; and mounting teacher shortages, further crippling low-performing secondary schools. The time for merely rethinking and upgrading the role of technology in education has passed, according to the report. Technology can no longer be thought of simply as an "add-on" tool in education, but rather an integral part of the total educational environment.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/bUbxyL> [PDF format, 10 pages].

#### Item#10

PUBLIC REJECTS VARIETY OF OPTIONS FOR FIXING STATE BUDGETS. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. June 28, 2010.

Most Americans see the deteriorating budget situations in many states as a problem that the states themselves – rather than the federal government – should solve. But when it comes to specific proposals to balance state budgets, there is more opposition than support for each option asked about – particularly cuts in funding for education and public safety programs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://bit.ly/8XT0ii> [HTML format, various paging].